

The House of Assembly therefore resolved upon making this last appeal to the present Government for a reform of the political institutions of the colony and a concession of its rights, as one of the most ancient and loyal dependencies of the British Crown, rather than resort to measures in the Assembly of an extreme though constitutional character, which existing circumstances would justify; but a feeling of confidence in Her Majesty's Ministers, and in the intrinsic merits of the principles which the Assembly have endeavoured to uphold, induce them to forbear adopting that course, in the hope that ere long their reasonable demands would be conceded.

They therefore trust that your Grace will give a favourable hearing to their delegates, and upon a full consideration of the matters which they will deem it their duty to submit, your Grace may be enabled to advise Her Majesty's Government to adopt such measures as will meet the views of the Assembly, and secure the harmonious working of the co-ordinate branches of the Legislature, by conferring upon the people of this colony a participation in such rights and privileges as have been granted to the neighbouring colonies and are shown to be productive of the peace and prosperity of the people.

House of Assembly, June 15, 1853.

(Signed)

JOHN KENT, Speaker.

(No. 27.)

No. 7.

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Governor HAMILTON.

SIR,

Downing Street, July 30, 1853.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 41, of the 28th of June, transmitting an Address to myself from the House of Assembly of Newfoundland, announcing the appointment by that Body of three of its members—Messrs. Little, Parsons and Emerson—to be delegates to Her Majesty's Government on the subject of responsible Government, and free trade with the United States of America; your despatch also incloses a copy of a letter from the President of the Chamber of Commerce to the Colonial Secretary of your Government, and a communication to myself from the chairman of a public meeting at St. John's, on the latter of those two subjects.

I have, &c.

Governor Hamilton,  
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

NEWCASTLE.

No. 8.

No. 8.

COPY of LETTER from Captain HAMILTON, R.N., to H. MERIVALE, Esq.

SIR,

Admiralty, February 15, 1854.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Duke of Newcastle, copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir George Seymour, relative to the mode of distinguishing English vessels from foreigners on the North American fisheries.

I have, &c.

H. Merivale, Esq.,  
Colonial Office.

(Signed)

W. A. B. HAMILTON.

Enclosure in No. 8.

Encl. in No. 8.

SIR,

Cumberland Terrace, January 23, 1854.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your letter of the 16th December (No. 311), conveying the desire of the Duke of Newcastle that I should report my opinion on a suggestion made by Commander Purvis, of the "Argus," that certain regulations should be adopted to distinguish British fishing vessels from French, on the coast of Newfoundland, and on which I had expressed no opinion in forwarding Commander Purvis's Report on the fisheries.

I beg to acquaint you, for his Grace's information, that my attention has been sedulously turned for the last two years to the subject, in its general application to the whole of the British provinces, in order to facilitate the execution of the orders of Her Majesty's Government to restrain foreign encroachments on our fishing grounds; and there, in 1852, I proposed to the Colonial Governments to adopt by law a system of distinctive marks